



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700  
TEL 510.817.5700  
TTY/TDD 510.817.5769  
FAX 510.817.5848  
E-MAIL [info@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:info@mtc.ca.gov)  
WEB [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)

June 6, 2008

*Bill Dodd, Chair*  
Napa County and Cities

*Scott Haggerty, Vice Chair*  
Alameda County

*Tom Ammiano*  
City and County of San Francisco

*Tom Azumbrado*  
U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

*Tom Bates*  
Cities of Alameda County

*Bob Blanchard*  
Sonoma County and Cities

*Dean J. Chu*  
Cities of Santa Clara County

*Dave Cortese*  
Association of Bay Area Governments

*Dorene M. Giacomini*  
U.S. Department of Transportation

*Federal D. Glover*  
Contra Costa County

*Anne W. Halsted*  
San Francisco Bay Conservation  
and Development Commission

*Steve Kinsey*  
Marin County and Cities

*Sue Lempert*  
Cities of San Mateo County

*Jon Rubin*  
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

*Bijan Sartipi*  
State Business, Transportation  
and Housing Agency

*James P. Spering*  
Solano County and Cities

*Adrienne J. Tissier*  
San Mateo County

*Amy Worth*  
Cities of Contra Costa County

*Ken Yeager*  
Santa Clara County

*Steve Heminger*  
Executive Director

*Ann Flemer*  
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

*Andrew B. Fremier*  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Bay Area Toll Authority

*Therese W. McMillan*  
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

**Bay Area Public Transportation Providers  
San Francisco Bay Area**

**RE: Call for Projects for Second Funding Cycle of New Freedom Program**

**Dear Public Transportation Provider:**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) invites your agency to submit applications for the New Freedom Program. Successful applicants will receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding to support new public transportation services and/or alternatives beyond those required by the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The available funding is \$1.6 million for projects that will serve the Bay Area's large urbanized areas<sup>1</sup> (UAs), and \$1 million for projects that will serve the Bay Area's small UAs.

**Program Requirements**

**Project Eligibility**

The eligibility requirements are:

1. Projects must be intended to assist individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation services; and
2. Projects must expand the transportation mobility options of disabled individuals beyond the requirements of ADA; and
3. Projects must be "new", that is, they must not have been implemented or operational on August 10, 2005, and must not have had an identified funding source as of August 10, 2005; and
4. Projects must be derived from the Bay Area's Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan.

Examples of new eligible services beyond those required by ADA include paratransit enhancements, feeder services, accessibility improvements to transit and intermodal stations not designated as key stations<sup>2</sup>, and travel training. Examples of new eligible alternatives beyond those required by ADA include the purchase of vehicles with wheelchair accommodations for vanpooling, administration of voucher programs, administration of volunteer driver programs, and mobility management.

<sup>1</sup> An urbanized area is an area encompassing a population of not less than 50,000 people that has been defined and designated in the most recent decennial census as an "urbanized area" by the Secretary of Commerce. Large urbanized areas as used in the context of FTA formula grant programs are urbanized areas with a population of greater than 200,000. Small urbanized areas are those with population between 50,000 and 200,000.

<sup>2</sup> Key station designations are established under 49 CFR 37.47, 37.51, or 37.53.

### *Eligible Applicants*

There are three categories of eligible applicants for New Freedom funds: a) private non-profit organizations; b) state or local governmental authorities; and c) operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services.

### *Federal/Local Share and Compliance with Federal Requirements*

Funds can be used for capital and operating expenses. The federal New Freedom share of the total eligible cost can be no more than 80 percent for capital projects and 50 percent for operating projects. The local share must be provided from sources other than federal transportation funds.

Recipients will be required to enter into an agreement with MTC for projects in the large UAs or Caltrans for projects in small UAs. Recipients must comply with all pertinent federal requirements, including periodic reporting of project progress and project performance.

### Programming Targets

MTC seeks to program under this Call for Projects the FY 2007 apportionment for the large UAs, and the FYs 2007 through 2009 funding targets provided by Caltrans for the small UAs. The amounts are as follows:

Urbanized Area (UA)	Second Cycle Targets
<b>Bay Area Large UA</b>	<b>\$1,612,117</b>
Antioch	\$60,601
Concord	\$121,779
San Francisco-Oakland	\$950,208
San Jose	\$399,440
Santa Rosa	\$80,089
<b>Bay Area Small UA</b>	<b>\$991,014</b>
Fairfield	\$166,539
Gilroy-Morgan Hill	\$84,825
Livermore	\$98,750
Napa	\$123,621
Petaluma	\$73,957
Vacaville	\$128,969
Vallejo	\$314,353

The urbanized areas are actually larger than the cities for which they are named. A map of the UAs is included in MTC's Program Guidelines. The above amounts are the target programming amounts for projects that will provide services within a given UA. Projects that will provide services in multiple UAs are eligible to apply for funds apportioned to all of the affected UAs.

### How to Apply

**There are two different applications: one for large UA funds and another for small UA funds. Applicants must select and use whichever application is appropriate for their proposed project.** The Program Guidelines contain detailed information on the New Freedom Program and this Call for Projects. The guidelines and application forms are available at [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/new\\_freedom.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/new_freedom.htm). Applications for both large and small UA funds are due by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, 2008 to the addressee below. *Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.*

Christina Atienza  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland CA 94607-4700.

A workshop for prospective applicants will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2008 at the Fishbowl Conference Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of MTC's office. Attendance is not required but encouraged.

### Application Evaluation

After initial screening by MTC staff to determine eligibility, a panel consisting of Bay Area representatives of disabled population interests and MTC staff will evaluate and score the applications. Applications for large UA funds will be evaluated based on MTC-adopted criteria including: demonstration of need and expected benefits; evidence of coordination, partnership, and outreach efforts; and project readiness. Applications for small UA funds will be evaluated based on Caltrans-adopted criteria including: compliance with program goals and objectives; operational/implementation plan; program effectiveness and performance indicators; communication and outreach; and the applicant's organization and specific project budget.

MTC reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in applications, and to request additional information from the applicants. Preliminary results are expected to be announced by September 2008.

We look forward to receiving your project applications. Feel free to contact Christina Atienza at [catienza@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:catienza@mtc.ca.gov) or 510.817.5828 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Signature on original*

Therese W. McMillan  
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

TM: CA

J:\PROJECT\Funding\FTA\New Freedom\Cycle II\Call for Projects\Call\_for\_Projects.doc